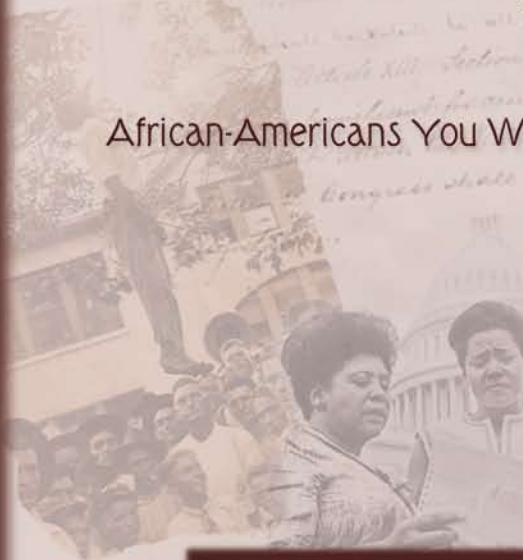


Thirty-Eighth Congress of the United States of America

At the Second Session

# Portraits of Courage

African-Americans You Wish You Had Known



Slave Catchers  
Keep a Sharp Look Out for  
KIDNAPPERS, and have  
TOP EYE open.

Presented by Will & Company

818.779.1180 phone willandcompany@gmail.com

<http://www.willandcompany.com/portraits>

# *Portraits of Courage* African-Americans You Wish You Had Known

**PORTRAITS OF COURAGE** is a play that showcases the lives of several African-Americans who have made vital contributions to American culture and society. Two actors portray historically-based characters who have influenced science, civil rights, sports, the economy, the Armed Services, labor relations, education, and the arts. It is an awe-inspiring work that will open your eyes to the amazing people who helped make America what it is today.

In a 65 minute presentation, you will meet:

**Ida B. Wells:** The journalist who, through her writing and activism, refused to allow mainstream America to look the other way and excuse the horrific lynching of black men in the United States.

**Langston Hughes:** The brilliant poet, one of the originators of jazz poetry, who together with his close friends Wallace Thurman and Zora Neale Hurston set America ablaze with the Harlem Renaissance. One of the only African Americans to appear before McCarthy's 'Unamerican Committee,' this complex man, in contrast to his troubled father, held a deep love for his country on the grounds that it belongs to all Americans, no matter the color.

**Colonel Young:** The third black graduate from Westpoint, and the architect of America's National Park system. Colonel Young walked from Ohio to Washington D.C. to prove he could still serve as an officer in the American army and became the highest ranking officer in the United States as Commander of the renowned 'buffalo' soldiers.

**Madame CJ Walker:** The first female millionaire ever. She rose through the squalor of working as a laundress in St. Louis to own a 60 room mansion on the Hudson River and became instrumental in the Harlem Renaissance.

**Bass Reeves:** Deputy Marshall of Indian Territory, the first black marshal west of the Mississippi who spent thirty-two years crossing the notorious 'dead line' into Indian Territory in pursuit of America's worst outlaws. Three thousand were apprehended by this cowboy legend, including his own son.

**Lucy Parsons** A Texan of African-Mexican descent, Lucy was described by the Chicago police as "more dangerous than a thousand rioters." She was a co-founder of the Industrial Workers of the World, a staunch activist and labor leader campaigning on behalf of women, people of color and the homeless. With her husband, she led the fight for the eight hour work day. A fierce orator, feared by the authorities, Lucy would often be arrested before she reached the podium as she passionately battled across the United States for social justice and equality for all.

PORTRAITS OF COURAGE is presented by Will & Company, a Los Angeles based theatre company that tours the nation with classical theatre and new works that deal with contemporary issues of acceptance. Committed to its mission of "actors reflective of their audience", Will & Company seeks to represent the country by promoting and presenting artists of diverse ethnicities, genders, orientation and abilities.

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## **CLIENT LIST (partial)**

Bradley University, Peoria IL	New York University, NY
City of Los Angeles Mayor's Initiative, Los Angeles CA	Newbury College, Brookline MA
Casper College, Casper WY	North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC
Central Oregon Community College, Bend OR	Oregon State University
Citrus College, Glendora CA	Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg KS
Barton County Community College, KS	Plymouth State College, NH
Bend Community College, OR	Quinnipiac College, Hamden CT
Bismarck State College, ND	St. John's University, Queens NY
California University of Pennsylvania, PA	St. Norbert's College, DePere WI
Clover Park Technical College, Lakewood WA	St. Xavier University, Chicago IL
Coast Guard Academy, New London CT	Sheridan College, Sheridan WY
Colorado School of Mines & Tech, Golden CO	Southern Oregon State University, Ashland OR
Eagle's Nest Christian Fellowship, San Antonio TX	Trinity College, San Antonio TX
Eastern Oregon University, Le Grande OR	University of Alaska, Anchorage AK
IUPUI, Indianapolis IN	University of Arizona, Tucson AZ
Lindfield College, McMinnville OR	University of Oregon, Eugene OR
Marrist College, Poughkeepsie NY	University of Texas, San Antonio
Massasoit Community College, Brockton MA	Wichita State University, St. Francis
Minnesota State University, Moorehead MN	University of Wisconsin - Whitewater
Nate Holden Theatre, Los Angeles CA	

## **RECOMMENDATIONS & REVIEWS**

"As the Civil Rights Officer for the Coast Guard Academy, I would highly recommend Will & Company to any institution looking for ways to convey the importance of diversity. Their innovative style and characterizations proved to be very effective toward completing learning objectives. We received an overwhelmingly positive response from our Cadet Corps. The production was considered one of the best training sessions of the year. Will & Company is a viable asset to our communities."

*Kenneth B. Hunter, Civil Rights Officer, US Coast Guard Academy*

"African-American history is a perfect subject for the theater. I believe this play captures the essence and the passion of a worthy story."

*Bill Mullen, University of Texas at San Antonio*

"The production was brilliant, an entertaining and educating show... humorously informative... At the conclusion, audience members were eager to learn more about the characters. They stayed in their seats after the performance was over."

*The Clarion Newspaper, CA*

"Watching made me realize how far women have come since having the right to vote, and that we've come a long way."

*Freshman, Loyola College*

"Thank you for teaching my sons what they can become."

*Audience Member, Billings, MT*

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## **LOGISTICS**

The crew consists of 3 people: 2 Performers and 1 Production Manager. They travel by air or by car depending on your location and schedule.

The Production Manager will take care of all your technical needs and can deal directly with your venue's Technical Director.

After the show, the Performers will facilitate a post-show discussion upon your discretion. The Performers will also be available for photos after the show as there is no photography or video during the performance.

## **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

"Portraits" is a dramatic presentation and is ideally performed in theatres. However, with the adaptability of the set and the flexibility of our crew, it can be performed virtually anywhere. Below is a guideline of technical needs, which our Production Manager can easily reconfigure to your specific venue capabilities.

- Set-up time of two (2) hours or more prior to curtain
- Quick Change Area immediately adjacent to performance space
- Projector with hook-ups and ample length cords for laptop
- Sound System connected to projector
- Projection Screen or Backdrop for projection
- 2 Wireless Lavalier Microphone

- Audio/Visual Technician
- Sound Board Operator
- Lighting Board Operator

*Basic lighting plot available prior to arrival*

# *Portraits of Courage* African-Americans You Wish You Had Known

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: What is "Portraits of Courage"?

A: "Portraits" is a 65 minute live theatrical presentation with a cast of two actors, one male and one female. There are 6 African-American historical characters portrayed: Ida B. Wells, Lewis Latimer, Colonel Young, CJ Walker, Bass Reeves and Fannie Lou Hamer. The show is self-contained and travels across the country with costumes, props, video presentation, and lighting design. A production manager travels with the performers to take care of the technical needs.

Q: Are the stories true?

A: The show is written from historical facts. The characters and experiences portrayed are all true.

Q: Does it have to be performed in a theatre?

A: The ideal venue for the show would be a theatre. However, the show is often presented in multi-purpose rooms, lecture halls, auditoriums, hotel ballrooms, etc. The production manager will work with you to create the right atmosphere in whatever space is available to you.

Q: Is it appropriate for children?

A: "Portraits" is based on fact and contains some issues of violence in American history. The most appropriate age would be high school and above.

Q: What if I can't meet the technical needs in the tech pack?

A: The tech pack is written with the ideal venue of a full scale theatre, but we are extremely flexible and will work with the demands/limitations of your chosen space. If you have specific concerns, please call us at 818-437-1272. Our motto is "We'll make it work!"

Q: Who can book the show?

A: Our shows are available to any group from colleges to corporate to community events. Government agencies as well as high school districts have selected our shows to celebrate cultural awareness or for diversity training. The show is also great for conferences and can fulfill the diversity requirement.

Q: Can we videotape the performance? What about photographs?

A: Unfortunately, there can be no videotaping of the show. We do not recommend photography during the show as it is very distracting to both the audience and the performers. However, if it must be done, there can be no flash use and the photographer must stay on the sidelines and not directly in front of the stage. The best time to take photos is after the show when the performers can pose specific shots. Permission granted to photographers allows for Will & Company's promotional use of any and all photographs related to the show.

Q: Is the script available for purchase?

A: Not currently, but we hope to have the script with a study guide available soon.

Q: How do I book the show?

A: Call us at 818.990.1558 or email our office.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: We traditionally work on a sliding scale with special pricing for colleges and non-profits. Please call 818.990.1558 or email to receive a quote.